

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07512 230744Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 /019 W
-----013090 230837Z /10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4203

UNCLAS TEHRAN 7512

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO IR

SUBJ: ARCHITECTURAL OPPORTUNITY: INFORMAL

PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. A CONSULTANT FOR THE EMPRESS' SPECIAL BUREAU HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SEVERAL AMERICZN ARCHITECTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USDOC HANDLING, OR PASSING TO WASHINGTON OFFICE OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, AS APPROPRIATE, A REQUEST FOR THE INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS LISTED TO PROVIDE BROCHURES/PORTFOLIOS INDICATING EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS PROJECTD AND EXPERIENCE. THIS REQUEST SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS FORMAL PREQUALIFICATION FOR ANY PARTICULAR PROJECT BUT AS A MEANS OF ACQUAINTING STAFF OF THE BUREAU WITH CAPABILITIES. A NUMBER OF IRANIAN ARCHITECTS WHO WORK WITH THE BUREAU AND HAVE STUDIED IN THE UNITED STATES DREW UP THE LIST.

2. BACKGROUND: THE EMPRESS' SPECIAL BUREAU IS A SECRETARIAT FOR HANDLING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MATTERS IN WHICH THE EMPRESS HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST. THE BUREAU'S PARTICIPATION RANGES FROM ANSWERING CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO HER MAJESTY TO FULL-SCALE INVOLVEMENT IN AND SPONSORSHIP OF LARGE-SCALE PRO- UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 07512 230744Z

JECTS. ONE EXAMPLE IS THE ORGANIZATION, DEVELOPMENT AND SPONSORSHIP OF THE NEGARESTAN MUSEUM, A TEHRAN MUSEUM OPENED LAST YEAR WHICH DISPLAYS SIGNIFICANT EX- AMPLES OF PAINTINGS AND ARTIFACTS OF THE QAJAR DYNASTY. WE ASSUME SPECIAL BUREAU'S INTEREST IN ARCHITECTS IS RELATED TO PLANNING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS SIMILAR TO THE NEGARESTAN MUSEUM BUT AS YET UNSPECIFIED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORM ARCHITECTS WHOSE NAMES
ARE LISTED BELOW EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, AS APPROPRIATE, THAT IF
THEY WISH TO RESPOND TO THE BUREAU'S REQUEST THEY
SHOULD FORWARD MATERIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

MR. FARIBORZ MEHRAFSHANI, ARCHITECT
C/O SPECIAL BUREAU OF HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY
82 IRANSHahr AVENUE, TEHRAN, IRAN
(TELEPHONE 826263)
ARCHITECTS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY NAME ARE
(ADDRESSES NOT PROVIDED): CHARLES MOORE, RALPH RALPHSON,
PHILIP JOHNSON, KEVIN ROCHE, ROBERT VENTURI, PAUL
RUDOLPH, WORKS (FRANK KUPPER, CRAIG HUGETTE),
ROGERS AND PAINO, THE BUFFIL GROUP, (FNU) UPSEN,
AND RAMIREZ VASQUEZ. EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE HEARING RESULTS OF CONTACT FOR TRANS-
MISSION TO SPECIAL BUREAU.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS A TYPICALLY VAGUE REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED QUOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
UNQUOTE. WE NOTE THAT A NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS HAVE
MADE PRESENTATIONS TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
AT CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE AND TIME FOR PROJECTS WHICH
HAVE NEVER MATERIALIZED, AT LEAST IN THE FORM
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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 07512 230744Z

DISCUSSED WITH ARCHITECT (PIRATING OF AND SYNTHESIS
OF DESIGNS IS NOT UNKNOWN). HOWEVER, DESIGN
OPPORTUNITIES OFTEN DEVELOP BY CIRCUITOUS ROUTES AND
ANY EXPOSURE IN THE IRANIAN MARKET COULD BEAR FRUIT AT
A LATER DATE. ARCHITECTS REQUESTED, AND ANY OTHERS OF
SIMILAR STATURE AND EXPERIENCE, MAY WISH TO SUPPLY
ALREADY-PREPARED BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR WHATEVER IT
MAY BE WORTH.

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